

Please amend the claims as follows:

(52) 9. (Amended) A method, comprising:

- (a) providing a chamber;
- (b) creating a treatment zone within said chamber for applying a substance to a plurality of workpieces, said plurality of workpieces being selected from the group consisting of meat, poultry, other foodstuffs, and food packaging;
- (c) creating a first liquid barrier within said chamber downstream of said treatment zone; and
- (d) passing said plurality of workpieces through said treatment zone and above said first liquid barrier.

Please add the following new claims:

--21. A method, comprising:

- (a) providing a chamber;
- (b) creating a treatment zone within said chamber for applying a substance to a plurality of workpieces, said plurality of workpieces being selected from the group consisting of meat, poultry, other foodstuffs, and food packaging;
- (c) creating a first liquid barrier within said chamber downstream of said treatment zone;
- (d) creating a second liquid barrier within said chamber upstream of said treatment zone; and
- (e) passing said plurality of workpieces through said treatment zone and above or through said first and second liquid barriers.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein said substance comprises an antimicrobial, and step

- (b) comprises creating said treatment zone within said chamber for applying said antimicrobial to said plurality of workpieces.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein step (e) comprises passing said plurality of workpieces through said treatment zone and above said first and second liquid barriers.--

X